



Everglades Fishing Regulations

Navigable waters cover one third of the park, creating excellent fishing opportunities. Please remember to exercise caution while fishing in the Everglades. Check weather and tide predictions and be prepared for mosquitos. Please remember

that collecting plants and animals in the Everglades is prohibited. This includes orchids, airplants, seahorses, starfish, conch, tropical fish, lobster, coral, sponges, and driftwood. One quart of non-occupied seashells may be collected per person per day. The following regulations are intended to supplement the Florida Saltwater Recreational Fishing Regulations. Visitors must be aware of Florida state laws, rules, and regulations. For more information on licensing and state fishing regulations, visit www.marinefisheries.org.

Fishing Regulations

Freshwater or Saltwater?

All waters from and including, Nine Mile Pond northward, along the Main Park Road are considered fresh water.

Prohibited Fishing Gear

Except for dip nets, cast nets, and landing nets, all other seines and nets are prohibited. The use and possession of spear guns and spear poles is prohibited.

Filleting Fish

Anglers may have four (4) fillets per person for immediate consumption at designated campsites or on board vessels equipped with cooking facilities. All other fish must remain whole while in park waters.

Commercial Fishing

Commercial fishing is prohibited in Everglades National Park.

Freshwater Fishing

License

A Florida freshwater fishing license is required to fish in freshwater or to possess freshwater species for visitors over the age of 15.

Bait

Live or dead fish (including minnows and shiners) or amphibians, and non-preserved fish eggs or roe are prohibited. Digging for bait inside the park is not permitted.

Closed To Fishing

No fishing is allowed in the Ernest F. Coe (Main) Visitor Center lakes, Royal Palm Visitor Center area and trails, Chekika Lake, along the first three miles of the Main Park Road, including Taylor Slough, or along the Shark Valley Tram Road.

Saltwater Fishing

Saltwater

Saltwater fishing in Everglades National Park is almost entirely in Monroe County.

License

A Florida saltwater fishing license is required to fish in saltwater or to possess saltwater species for visitors over the age of 15.

Bait

Bait, except for mullet and shrimp, is not included in bag limits. Saltwater bait includes shrimp, minnows, pilchards, pinfish, mullet, mojarra (shad), or ballyhoo. Bait may be taken with hook and line, dip net (not wider than three feet), and cast net (not wider than six foot radius).

Closed To Fishing

No fishing is allowed in Eco, Mrazek, or Coot Bay Ponds at any time. No fishing is allowed from the boardwalk at West Lake, or at the Flamingo Marina during daylight hours.

Manatee Etiquette

Areas frequented by manatees have been posted. Keep an eye out for manatees. Slow to an idle if observed, but do not approach.

Shrimp

Shrimp may be taken by dip net (not wider than three ft.) or cast net (not wider than six ft. radius), for personal use only.

Aquatic Life

With the exception of finfish, shrimp, bait, crabs, and oysters, the possession or disturbance of any fresh or saltwater aquatic life is prohibited.

Flats Etiquette

Propeller damage to seagrass beds is harmful to the marine environment. Be extremely careful when navigating in shallow waters and use a pushpole whenever possible. Use the channels in Florida Bay to navigate around flats.

Recreational Crabbing

Stone crabs during open state season, and blue crabs may be taken by recreational fishermen using attended gear (for example: star trap, baited line, landing net, etc.). Crabbers are limited to five (5) traps. Crabbing with unattended gear is prohibited.

Warning!

High levels of mercury have been found in Everglades bass and in some fish species in northern Florida Bay. Do not eat bass caught north of the main park road more than once a week. Children and pregnant women should not eat any bass. The following saltwater species caught in northern Florida Bay should not be consumed more than once a week by adults, or once a month by children and women of child-bearing age: Spotted Seatrout, Gafftopsail Catfish, Bluefish, Crevalle Jack, or Ladyfish.

Everglades National Park Catch Limits

Species	Size Limit	Closed Season	Daily Bag Limit	Remarks
Black Drum	14" - 24" (T)		5/person/day	Only one fish over 24" per person
Black Mullet* Striped Mullet*	8" (T)		No more than 50/vessel regardless of size	More than 8" in length: 10 per person or 50 per vessel, whichever is less
Blue Crab			10 gal whole/vessel	Egg bearing crabs may not be taken
Bluefish	12" (F)		10/person/day	
Bonefish	18" (T)		1/person/day	
Cobia	33" (F)		1/person/day, or 6/vessel, whichever is less	
Flounder	12" (T)		10/person/day	
Grouper (Black, Gag)	24" (T) Monroe Co. 22" (T) Gulf		2/person/day (Monroe) 5/person/day (Collier Co.)	Included in the daily Grouper aggregate limit of 5 per person per day
Grouper (Speckled Hind, Warsaw)	20" (T)		1/vessel/day	
Grouper (Yellowfin, Red, Yellowmouth, Scamp)	20" (T)		5/person/day (aggregate of all species)	
Hogfish	12" (F)		5/person/day	
Largemouth Bass*	Less than 14" (T)		5/person/day	No more than one fish over 14" per person
Mackeral (Spanish)*	12" (F)		10/person/day	
Permit/Pompano	10" - 20" (F)		10/person/day	No more than one fish over 20" per person. Aggregate bag limit of 10 per person per day
Redfish	18" - 27" (T)		1/person/day	Cannot buy or sell native Redfish
Sea Trout	15" - 20" (T)	Nov.1 - Dec. 31	4/person/day	No more than one trout over 20" per person
Shark			1/person/day	Maximum of 2 aboard vessel. See list below for protected species
Sheepshead*	12" (F)		10/person/day	
Shrimp	None		5 gal/vessel	Must be landed in whole condition
Snapper (Gray, Mangrove)	10" (T)		5/person/day	No more than 10 Snapper of all species combined can be possessed at any one time
Snapper (Schoolmaster)	10" (T)		10/person/day	
Snapper (Lane)	8" (T)		10/person/day	
Snapper (Mutton)	16" (T)		10/person/day	
Snapper (Red)	16" Gulf 20" Atlantic (T)	Nov. 1 - Apr. 14 (Gulf)	4/person/day (Gulf) 2/person/day (Atlantic)	
Snapper (Yellowtail)	12" (T)		10/person/day	
Snapper (Vermilion)	10" (T)		10/person/day	Counted in Snapper aggregate bag limit if caught in Atlantic
Snook*	26" - 34" (T) Gulf, Monroe, ENP	Dec. 15 - Jan. 31, May 1 - Aug. 31	1/person/day	Fishing guides cannot possess. Cannot buy or sell. Snook stamp required
Stone Crab Claws*	2 3/4" forearm	May 16 - Oct. 14	10 claws/person/day	Legal claws may be taken but crab must be returned to water
Tarpon*	None		2/person/day	Cannot buy or sell. Requires \$50 Tarpon tag to possess or harvest
Tripletail	15" (T)		2/person/day	

(F) Fork Length: Fish is measured from the tip of the nose to the rear center of the fork of the tail.

(T) Total Length: Fish is measured from the tip of the nose to the back of the tail fin.

Notes:

- Licensed anglers are limited to possession of 20 fish per person at any time, but **may possess only 10 fish of any one species.**
- Harvest, landing, and sale of the following species is prohibited: Goliath Grouper (formerly known as Jewfish), Nassau Grouper, Lobster, Oysters, Scallops, Smalltooth Sawfish, Largetooth Sawfish, Basking Shark, Whale Shark, and Spotted Eagle Ray.

- Using live or dead natural bait on a multiple hook (such as a treble hook) while fishing for Black Drum, Pompano, Redfish, Sea Trout, or Snook is prohibited. Snagging the above species is also prohibited.

*Species with more restrictive regulations than those listed in Florida Recreational Saltwater Fishing Regulations. Visit www.marinefisheries.org for additional information on licensing and fishing regulations.

Information correct as of June 2003. You are responsible for knowing any revisions.